

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Shannon** Ref: **88**
County: **Clare** Mark: **266**
Category: **F** Date(s): **18/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	46
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27
Litter Control	50	26
Waste Minimisation	20	16
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	266

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the entry submission and the excellent map of the area. I read with interest the additional support material – the draft plan for 2008, TidyTowns poster Stop it don't drop it, the Shannon local wetland project and Shannon TidyTowns action plan for 2006 / 2009.

I note you have 4 executive members and just four committee members. In reading over the support material I could clearly see that you aim to continue to play an active role in the long term development of the town. The annual general plan is a very positive approach and the quarterly meetings to review progress ensure that you are keeping up with developments. You are interacting well with Clare County Council and Shannon Town Council. It is vitally important, as you do, to keep the local people informed of your activities and plans, and we find from experience that the best way of doing this is by newsletter. It is very worthwhile to assist the schools in projects and competitions and it is wonderful to find that four schools have been awarded the green flag status. Hopefully the other schools will follow suit. It is interesting to find that the adjudicator's reports provide guidance for your committee. Festivals are very important social events for towns and villages as they instil a good spirit amongst the people. I have seen on television on many occasions your fine St Patrick's Day parade. You have an excellent approach to the TidyTowns competition.

The Built Environment:

The Garda station is an attractive modern building and it is nicely screened off with mature trees. All the schools are presented in a neat and tidy fashion, and I felt that St Aidens, sporting proudly the green flag is best presented. St John's school in Drumgeely is in need of some attention with weeds growing in the gutters. I admired the sculpture at the very large St Caimin's Community School where there were some good shrubs. The open spaces at this school are very big and very well maintained.

Sport is very well catered for in Shannon with the GAA, Soccer, Rugby and Swimming pool, plus those

extensive sports fields at the schools. The huge Wolfe Tones GAA complex is most impressive and the Goalpost building is very well maintained. St Sennans RFC and Park Rangers have impressive pavilions and playing pitches.

The Church of SS John and Paul is an attractive modern church in excellent condition and sports splendid landscaping, and Drumgeely church was crisp and clean and tastily decorated.

Shannon Community Hall is a good spacious building and needs a freshening up on the paintwork, and with respect could I suggest that area could do with a few new trees and shrubs.

The large modern shopping centre caters very well for Shannon area with some outstanding shops and the arrival of Lidl will generate more competition and be beneficial for the residents. I also admired some neat shops in Ballycasey Crescent and the nearby premises of Treaty Veterinary Clinic, Career wise, Solicitors and Management Consultants are very well presented. Other premises that impressed me were McMahon's funeral home, Halla an Bhaile and Murphy's cottage restaurant. Obviously there are many other fine buildings in Shannon and it could be a bit unfair to single out some before others.

Landscaping:

The Pope John Paul II Jubilee Garden outside the church of SS John and Paul is a fantastic feature with a suitable sculpture of Pope John Paul II and the area was adorned with an excellent floral display. The sculpture of the fish cut in stone at Ballycasey More is an attractive feature. The children's playground is a splendid facility and it was refreshing to see lots of children enjoying themselves in this outdoor environment. I could see the "footsteps" of energetic people with great leadership qualities with the many splashes of various forms of landscaping around the town. The vast open grassed areas are well maintained and the huge amount of trees is most impressive. One large roundabout was specially decorated with shrubs.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The river walk is a superb facility and rivals any of its kind for an area like Shannon. I enjoyed a stroll along the paths and huge open space is very well maintained leading up to the banks of the river Shannon. A local person told me of the significance of the tree with the flagstone at its base in memory of Geraldine Kissane RIP. With respect could I suggest that a notice board could be erected at the entrance to the river walk giving details of the huge amount of native wildlife plus the many visiting birds that migrate to this area? Bridget Barry is the Bio Diversity Officer at Clare County Council in Ennis (065 6821616) and she could provide some useful information. The Shannon local wetlands project have, I see, obtained funding from the Heritage Council and are working on the Shannon Wetland Project area.

Litter Control:

I note your remarks that you received a great response to the National spring clean up, and this plus the resources provided by Clare County Council have produced very good results, as the litter was well controlled over this very spread out town. Isolated bits of litter were noticed in the river walk and two shopping trolleys were left there.

Waste Minimisation:

I inspected the recycling facilities at the swimming pool and at Smithstown and it was pleasing to see in both locations that people were separating the bottles into the appropriate bins. The Shannon recycling centre opened in 2007 is undoubtedly a welcome asset in the race against waste.

Tidiness:

The standard of tidiness was quite good and consistent around the town. I was particularly impressed with the tidiness of the schools and sporting bodies. The busy shopping centre and car parks were spotless where throngs of people were present. The ongoing building of structures in the area have an obvious effect on tidiness, but I must point out that this work was being carried out by the contractors in a responsible manner.

Residential Areas:

The numerous housing estates are very well planned with ample amounts of open green spaces. The cutting of the grass is a huge task for Clare County Council. It was noticeable that many residents are looking after the green spaces outside their homes in a very responsible manner and the grass in most cases was trimmed nicely. The houses are well maintained and some sported spectacular displays of lawns, shrubs, flowers and mature trees and this compliments the efforts of the public bodies and the TidyTowns committee all of which meant that the town looks splendid. Over such a large area it was evident that there is a pride of place attitude amongst the people with no graffiti or vandalism to be seen.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

It is obvious that the roads are upgraded on a continuous basis, as all the roads were in superb condition. The road signs are clean and clear.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to spend a few hours driving and walking around Shannon. I was very impressed with the town and learned a lot about what is going on behind the scenes, and I feel that other towns could learn a lot from what has been achieved at Shannon. Congratulations are extended to all concerned and especially to the TidyTowns committee.